Circulation of old and unhygienic notes in NER

4657. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Reserve Bank of India is still allowing circulation of very old, dilapidated, unhygienic soiled notes of rupee one, two and five in the NER; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to prevent this inaction of the RBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Reserve Bank of India does not allow circulation of excessively soiled notes. Such notes are continuously phased out of circulation. Consequent upon coinisation of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 denomination notes, the printing of these notes has been discontinued from November, 1994, February, 1995 and November 1995 respectively. There are still a few pieces of notes in these denominations in circulation which have not been returned by the public for exchanging these notes for coins or banknotes of higher denomination despite wide publicity given in newspapers in English and vernacular languages and also through electronic media.

(b) Question does not arise.

Downsizing of Government as announced by Finance Minister

4658. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two Secretary level posts in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry have been abolished;

(b) by when the downsizing exercise announced by the Finance Minister, during his Budget Speech, would be undertaken;

(c) whether the Committee as promised by him has been set up to look into the issues concerning downsizing of Government; and

(d) if so, what are its terms of reference and by when it will give its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The posts of Secretary (Supply) and Secretary (Industry Development) have been identified for abolition.

a4 (b) The downsizing of the Government machinery is a continuous process and under the ongoing exercise relating to 10% cut in posts, so far around 1.60 lakh posts have been abolished.

(c) In his Budget Speech for the year 2000-2001, the Finance Minister did not mention about setting up of any Committee on the issue of downsizing.

(d) Does not arise.

Loans from International Financial Organisations

4659. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose for which loans are being obtained from the International Financial Organisations;

(b) the loans obtained during the last three years, institution-wise;

(c) the interest and service charges being paid annually thereon; and

(d) the projects being implemented with this amount, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The external assistance is mainly used for financing development projects which involve capital investment of a high magnitude. External assistance takes the form of transfer of cash or technical know-how or both. The loans are utilized in Power, Infrastructure, Industry & Finance, Agriculture, Irrigation, Social Environment & Forestry, Oil, Non-conventional Energy, Urban Development, etc. sectors through a number of projects.